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1947

E

E 1634

2

PALESTINE

24 FEB

Registry Number

E 1634/84/31

FROM

Darrell Wilson

No.

Algiers

Dated

23

Received in Registry

14, Feb 1947

24, Feb 1947

Illegal Immigrant Ship, 'ULLIA'

Reports that 'ULLIA' entered bay of Algiers morning of Feb. 8, anchored in creek near La Perouse. Master of ship got in touch with Messrs Joseph Barry and Hills, asking to be supplied with oil fuel and water. Refuelled and left Algiers 10 o'clock same evening. Give further particulars.

Last Paper.

1587

(Minutes.)

The Consul - Gen. has been energetic and done all he could. I doubt if in any case the vessel could have been stopped.

References.

Copy CO.

13 Feb. 25

(Print.)

61839

(How disposed of.)

8/6.0.

Mar 4

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Index)

[Signature] 3/8/48

Next Paper.

E 1680

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61839

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CONFIDENTIAL
DW/AMH

No: 23.

E 1634
24 FEB

British Consulate General,

ALGIERS.

14th February 1947.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that the Hondurian Steamship "ULUA", an ex-corvette, entered the bay of Algiers on the morning of Saturday, 8th February, and proceeded to the other side of the bay where she anchored in a creek near La Ferousse. It would appear that the Master of the ship then got in touch with Messrs. Joseph Lasry & Fils, steamship agents, with whom he had communicated by wireless, asking to be supplied with water and a certain quantity of oil fuel. Later on in the afternoon, while lying anchored in the creek, a number of Jewish passengers were allowed on the deck and this was seen by the local inhabitants, who in due course informed a press reporter. At about four o'clock the ship was brought into Algiers harbour with hatches battened down and no passengers visible. She took on oil and water and left Algiers at ten o'clock the same evening, clearing for the port of Genoa.

2. Regularly everyday, around mid-day or early in the afternoon, a member of the staff goes round the port to see what ships are in harbour and to look out for anything suspicious. This was duly done on the day in question but at that time the Ulua was still lying anchored up a creek on the other side of the bay and was therefore not noticed.

3. The first notification I had that there was anything suspicious was when a brief report appeared in the local Press on Tuesday morning. I immediately made the necessary enquiries and informed Malta and Port Said of my suspicions.

4. I asked for the local manager of the firm of Joseph Lasry to call upon me but, in his absence, a Chief Clerk who had been left in charge presented himself. I pointed out to him that he must have known that the ship in question for which he had accepted the agency by wireless was a peculiar case and that if they ever again had dealings with an illegal Jewish immigrant ship, as presumably the Ulua was, I should be forced to recommend that the agencies for certain British lines which they held should be withdrawn from them. Mr. Aldrey, the Chief Clerk in question, stated that they had received a wireless message from the Ulua asking them to act as the ship's agents to obtain oil fuel and water and that until he actually saw the vessel his suspicions were not aroused.

5. He stated that when he went on board the vessel only the crew were visible and that therefore the Jewish immigrants must have been battened down below. He further stated that the Master appeared to have plenty of ready cash and paid his bills in United States dollars. He protested that he would never handle a similar case again, as he anticipated that Mr. Joseph Lasry, Senior, the owner of the firm would be very upset about it as he values his connection with United Kingdom Steamship Companies.

6. I next paid a visit to Mr. Perillier, the Prefect of Algiers, pointing out that the arrangement which we had come to about informing me of any craft calling here and suspected of carrying illegal immigrants to Palestine had not been observed and that both Port Police and Customs authorities who allowed this ship to clear for Genoa must have been extremely unobservant or obtuse if they had not noticed

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs,
etc., etc., etc.,
Foreign Office,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

/ anything

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Reference: FO 371 / S1939

39

1947

E

E 1680

5

PALESTINE

25 FEB

Registry Number

E1680/84/31.

TELEGRAM FROM

M Fowler

No.

Tequigalpa

Dated

Nº 6.

Received

in Registry

24 Feb 1947

25 Feb 1947

Illegal Immigrant Ship SS. 'ULUA'
Refer F.O. No 5 (E1587/84/31) General Honduran Govt have no objection to the arrest of above ship on the high seas and her diversion to Cyprus as they have no right to Honduran flag. With regard to agreement in principle, the Honduran Govt considering the matter result of which will be telegraphed in due course.

Last Paper.

1634

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ Mr G. Lam. C.O.
Mr J. Chadwick M.I. 5.
Dutch. Admty
Mrs Perdin. N.I.O.
Admty
25 Feb.

(Action completed.)

G.C.M. 4/3

(Index.)

2/26/47

Next Paper.

E1736

(Minutes.)

Copies (with tel. under refce.) sent to Co., Admty. M.I. 5.

The reply of the Honduran Government is satisfactory so far as it goes. But on inspection it does not take us very far. The "Ulua" is no longer registered as Honduran. She has been sold to an American company and it is just possible that she has been re-registered as American. I very much doubt this, since all reports we have received are to the effect that she is still operating under Honduras registry and she appears in the last Lloyds Register as of Honduras flag.

I am asking M.I. 5. to try to make certain that the "Ulua" has not been registered as an American vessel. But even if this were proved, it would leave us with the following situation. The "Ulua" is a vessel previously registered under Honduras flag and not re-registered since November, 1946, under any other flag. She is accordingly a vessel without regular registry but masquerading under a flag to which she no longer has any right. She thus falls into the category of ships without a proper flag, whose diversion to Cyprus was considered by the Cabinet. As the Cabinet turned down this proposal, we could not take action in the present case without further reference to the Cabinet. There is the added risk that, if American-owned, the vessel might bring out the Stars and Stripes from her locker.

If the Honduras Government eventually agree to the principle of diversion of illegal immigrant ships and if a vessel still registered as Honduran turns up, we shall be able to take action. But the present case does not fulfil these conditions. *The Admty. share this view on the departmental level and Co. accept it.*

Mr Beckett first

J.G.S. Beith

(J.G.S. Beith)

26th February, 1947.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61839

I feel that we are being very weak
over all this. Our policy in dealing with
illegal immigrant ships rather lacks the
Nelson touch. ~~Would it be possible to~~
~~get the whole question considered by the~~
~~Cabinet with a view to getting approval~~
~~for a more vigorous policy?~~
? consult Admiralty & C.O.

~~R. J. ...~~
V. 27/2

N.D. Now see E1787, which
entirely alters the facts about
this vessel.

J.S. Birns
Feb. 27

G.P.P. Meglam. C.O. is M.M.1. Abadwick
Command 26, Feb.

B. Mary

6

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Reference:

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mw 8
INDEXED

E/680 84/71

27 FEB 1947

With the compliments of

— the Under Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
N. W. 1947.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61839

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SECRET
IMMEDIATE

Downing Street,
S.W.1.

26th February, 1947.

76021/54

Dear Chadwick,

As you will see from the exchange of telegrams between the Foreign Office and our representative in Honduras, the agreement of that Government in the interception of the "Ulua" was sought, but unfortunately it appeared that the "Ulua"s Honduran registry had been cancelled in November. It has therefore not proved possible to intercept this vessel and divert her to Cyprus, since both Admiralty and Foreign Office hold that we must have a cast iron case before putting a new procedure into operation.

It has therefore become a matter of prime importance that we should have as soon as possible the most authentic information about the countries of registry of suspect ships, and I should be grateful if you would ensure that your representatives abroad are so instructed, and advised to notify you immediately of any change of registry.

Perhaps we could have information about the present registration of the 14 ships contained in your letter to Fitzgerald. On the whole it would I think, be better to defer approaches to the Governments concerned until we

MAJOR CHADWICK.

/have

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Reference:

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E

E 1736 11
FEB

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E1736/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

Mr. Kuff Cooper
Paris.
175
26 Feb 1947
26 Feb 1947

Illegal Immigrant Ships.

S.S. 'MORVING' not at present at Marseilles. Cannot find in Lloyd's index. Please check name as there is ship ex Mersine now Emek nationality Turkish. No information as to present whereabouts.

Last Paper.

1680

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

Communications Dept.

No doubt this was automatically passed to Adm, but this is not expressly indicated: perhaps it ought to be

D.S. Beins
Feb. 26

"Admiralty" dist is the indication - copies are sent automatically to the Adm, the 70. Dept concerned & to S.L. Dept. (see p 19 of printed List of 70. Telegram Distributions).

D. Denny
6/3.

B. Mar. 10

(Action completed)

G.C. 6/10/3

(Index)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

E1776

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to
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Cypher/OTP

E . ADMIRALTY.

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Duff Cooper.
No. 175

D. 12.15 p.m. 26th February 1947.
R. 11.27 a.m. 26th February 1947.

26th February 1947.

E 1736
26 FEB

V V V

IMPORTANT.

Please pass following to Admiralty from
B.N.A. 261140.

[Begins].

SECRET.

Reference telephone conversation S.S. Mervine
not (repeat not) at present at Marseilles. Cannot
find in Lloyds index. Please check name as there
is ship ex Mersine now Emek nationality Turkish.
No information as to present whereabouts.

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1746

E

E 1787
27 FEB

13

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E1787/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

M Fowler

No.

Zegucigolpa

Dated

9

Received in Registry

26 Feb 1947
27 Feb 1947

Illegal Immigration SS 'UKLIA'

Refer Zegucigolpa tel. No 6 (E1680/84/31)
Reports my for Foreign Affairs has been
wrongly informed re 'UKLIA' now transpires
ship belongs Caribbean Atlantic Steamship
Corporation of Panama and that the ship
Honduras flag in virtue of provisional
certificate of registry issued by Honduras
Government Nov 21

Last Paper.

E1776

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8 Higham Co.
Maj. Chadwick M15
Dodds. Admty
Smith.
March 5.

(Action completed.)

G. E. M. 4/5

(Index.)

2/6/48

Next Paper.

E1891

(Minutes.)

Advance copies have been sent to,
and have reached, Mr Higham Co.,
Mr Dodds, Admty. and Maj. Chadwick
M15.

When I consulted Mr Beckett
informally, he agreed that this
case was now a clear one for
action in accordance with
the minutes approved by Sir R.
Howe on E1378/G. That is
my view and that of Mr
Higham Co. : Mr Dodds of
the Admty. was of the same
opinion but he will of course
have to secure the sanction
of the Lords Commissioners
before authorising the R.N.
to

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to intercept the vessel and divert
her to Cyprus. If this conclusion is
approved I will inform Adm. urgently.

Mr Beckett first

WRB²²/₂

J.S. Beith

Feb. 27
(BEITH)

? approve and inform Adm. This is a
good clear cut case for action.

R. G. ...
28/1

W. M. ...
28/2

This ship has now arrived in Palestine.

Moreover the Honduranian boat's
agreement for her arrest in the high
seas was given under the
belief that she was not
entitled to the Honduranian
flag. It now turns out
that she is registered as
Honduranian, but it is not
certain that the Honduranian boat's
previous consent to arrest
still holds.

R. G. ...
1/3

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E

E 1891

16

1947

PALESTINE

4 MAR

Registry Number

E1891/84/31

FROM

60

No.

bound.

Dated

Received in Registry

4 Mar 1947

Illegal Immigrant Ships.

Palatine tel 439 of Feb 28. States that
are persistent rumours that ships arriving
in near future (equinox) will carry American
Breast objective being to embroil us with the
U.S. over any untoward incidents or prosecutions
which may result. If these are on board when
ships are apprehended, they will be prosecuted
for sheltering illegal immigration.

Last Paper.

1787

(Minutes.)

No doubt the Co. will raise
this with us if they wish
to take up the High Commissioner's
suggestion.

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

I don't think there is
any point in our giving
advance warning to the State
Dept. : the Govt. of Palestine
are very cautious and the
local courts find it difficult
to secure convictions. They
will not ~~be~~ convict unless there
is a clear case, and if
there is, ~~it~~ ^{it} is really
up to us meet any complaints
from

(Action completed)

4/11/47

(Index)

3/6/48

Next Paper.

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from the USG as they arise

NA Dept.

Mr Beeley 13.4/3

H.S. Beins
Mar 4

I think that we should give
W. ton a chance to comment on this &
perhaps repeat. There may
be advantage in notifying the
State Dept: - it at least gives us
another opportunity to point up the
involvement of U.S. citizens in this
traffic. But ~~it~~ it should be
no more than advance notification
of intention; ~~it~~ it might in
fact be better to do it through
the U.S. Embassy in London.

[Signature]
(signed) F. B. A. Rundell 7/3

~~unwarranted advocacy to inform the
subject to the main~~

I don't agree with Mr Rundell: but
if N.A. Dept's. view is accepted I
advocate using the US Embassy here

H.S. Beins
Mar. 11

This paper has been overtaken by events!
It is pointless now to warn the U.S. authorities
but if an American crew arrives it
will be prosecuted. For an American crew
has now arrived, and the proceedings will
presumably be going forward. 13/3

15. Mar. 17

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Reference: **FO 371** / 61839

Minutes.

Sn P.P. C.O. tel 474 of 8/3

- - P'olice tel 529 of 11/3

NA Dept ^{No.} ~~23/3~~

We neednt have worried! 13 mar 18

18

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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FO 371 / 61839

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Copies to
CO (Higham)
Atty. (Dodd)
M15 (Chadwick)

~~Department~~

E 1959
5 MAR

Minutes.

3C please
not in aft. form

enter ✓
24

At the suggestion of Mr. Perowne, the Panamanian Chargé d'Affaires has been in touch with me about the registration of Jewish illegal immigration vessels under Panamanian flag. He gave me the names of the following vessels which he suspected of being involved in the traffic:-

- "San Dimitrio" } both of which arrived in Palestine waters with illegal immigrants and have presumably been impounded.
- "San Miguel" }
- "San Basilio" (The Panamanian Legation have cancelled her registry and she is stuck at Gothenburg).
- "San Eusebio" about whose whereabouts the Legation asked for information.
- "San Filippo" (Reported to be at Marseille).

Señor Morales told me that on investigation he considered that the owners concerned were the victims of bad faith on the part of John Eliadis, formerly one of their masters. The owners are, I believe, called Rethymos and Kyriakis.

Señor Morales asked me whether we could give him any information about the whereabouts of the "San Filippo" and the "San Eusebio". After consulting M.I.5. I told him that, according to our information, the "San Eusebio" was still at Copenhagen on February 25th, and the "San Filippo" was at Marseille. I also asked him to make enquiries about the registry of the following ships:-

"San Dimilios" now at Antwerp

"San Spiridon" at Stockholm.

He had never heard of the "San Dimilios" and thought she could not have been given Panamanian registry. He would, however, enquire immediately of his colleague in Antwerp. He had heard of the "San Spiridon" but he understood that her application for registry had been refused and he was surprised to hear that she was registered as Panamanian. He promised to look into her position also.

NA/DO
ala

J.G.S. Beith

J.G.S. Beith
4th March, 1947.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61839

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45-

E

E 2010 25

1947

PALESTINE

7 MAR

Registry Number

E 2010/84/31

FROM

Eusebio A.

No.

Morales Panama Legation

Dated

2-5-50

Received in Registry

to Mr. Reith
4. MAR 1947
7. MAR 1947

Illegal Immigrant Ships.
Confirms telephone conversation of Mar 4.
State at request of Mr. Menas Rethymnis
and duly authorized by Govt. had issued
resolutions cancelling the Panamanian registry
of certain ships (see list) of person
responsible for illegal traffic of these vessels
is a Captain Taha Eliadis, a Greek subject.

Last Paper.

195-9

(Minutes.)

References.

The C.A.T. seems to be at great
pains to exculpate Rethymnis.
In any case he is being most
forth coming and I think
we should take up his other
immediately as regards the other
vessels of Panamanian registry
suspected by Mr. (see E 1949)

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Off. Panamanian
Charge Affairs.
from Mr. Reith.
Mar. 10
J. Megham. C.O.
Woods. Admiralty.
{ Mr. Chadwick }
{ with copy of ref. }
✓ Mar 10

Draft
N.A. Dept.

H.S. Gains
Mar. 8

(Action completed.)

8/10/50

(Index.)

2/8/48

Next Paper:

E 2030

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Reference: FO 371 / 61839

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Rec
V/S

LEGACION DE PANAMÁ

London, 4th March, 1947

No. CL-510

EAM

3 C please
enter K
26
E 2010

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to confirm our telephone conversation of this morning when I informed you that, at ~~Mr.~~ request of Mr. Minas Rethymnis and duly authorized by my Government, ~~I had to-day~~ issued resolutions cancelling the panamanian registry of the following vessels: "SAN DIMITRIOS", "SAN BASILIO", "SAN MIGUEL", "SAN FILIPO" and "SAN EUSEBIO".

The person responsible for the illegal traffic of these vessels is, as I mentioned then and which you evidently must have known for some time, a Captain John Eliadis, a Greek subject, whose address at the moment is not quite known but who has been seen recently at Antwerp, Stockholm and Marseille. John Eliadis as principal shareholder and President of the companies owning these vessels, was the real owner and was directly responsible for the management of all the vessels.

Mr. Minas Rethymnis whom, as a result of my investigations, I have been able, I am happy to say, to clear completely from any participation in this regrettable and sordid affair, was himself only a nominee in the said companies and only accepted the appointments to satisfy certain requirements of the panamanian law. He was, as were all other people concerned, a victim of the bad faith of Captain John Eliadis. The firm of Rethymnis & Kulukundis, Ltd., Holland House, Bury Street, E.C.3 had incidentally no part in the matter and only acted on certain occasions as depositaries of funds belonging to Mr. Eliadis.

As I mentioned to you, I have been able to prevent the SAN BASILIO from sailing from Gotenburg, Sweden. Thanks to the information which you have given me as to the whereabouts of the SAN EUSEBIO and the SAN FILIPO, I believe that I will be able to prevent their sailing from Copenhagen and Marseille; I have already given instructions to that effect. I regret that we were too late in respect of the SAN DIMITRIOS and the SAN MIGUEL and I duly note that they have been confiscated.

J.G.S.Beith, Esq.,
Eastern Department,
The Foreign Office, S.W.1

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Reference:

FO 371 / 51839

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What you say as regards the SAN SPYRIDON has taken me somewhat by surprise. It is true that an application for panamanian registry was received several months ago at the Consulate General in London but the proceedings were suspended because of defects of certain vital documents; the whole matter has now of course been cancelled and the vessel is, as far as I know, without panamanian registry. What you say is disturbing and I am taking steps to ascertain the position here.

I do not believe that the SAN DIMILIOS is under the panamanian flag and it shall certainly not be, if I can help it. I have warned our Consul at Antwerp and I shall not fail to let you know the various reports which I receive.

I do not wish to close my letter without expressing to you and the Foreign Office, on behalf of the Government of Panama and my own, my gratitude for your excellent co-operation in this deplorable matter. The Panama flag is much too good a flag and offer much too many advantages to shipowners, to permit the mere mention of the word speculation. I shall most certainly make a "guerre a outrance" to any shipowner or Master who abuses of the advantages and protection of our flag.

Yours sincerely

Eusebio A. Morales
Chargé d'Affaires

RECEIVED IN C.B.
JAN 10 1917
SENT TO DEP.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61839

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FOREIGN OFFICE S.W.1.

March , 1947. 28

+ 3 OUT FILE

Registry No. E2010/84/31

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft.

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Chargé d'Affaires,

Thank you for your letter of March 4th, in which you were good enough to confirm to me that you had on that day cancelled the Panamanian registry of five vessels involved in the Jewish illegal immigrant traffic.

This department greatly appreciated your helpful cooperation in the matter and, in view of your expressed intention to prevent the Panamanian flag from being misused by the organisers of this illegal traffic, I venture to draw your attention to a further five vessels, details of which are as follows:-

Ship	Location	Approximate Capacity
Snapdragon	Haarlem	1,000
Shoreham	Cardiff	1,000
Lowestoft	Cardiff	1,000
Anal (ex Earl of Zeland)	Gibraltar	500
Laconia	Gibraltar	1,000

All these vessels are reported to be under Panamanian registry and we have good reason for believing that they are ~~likely~~ ^{destined} to be employed in the illegal Jewish immigrant traffic. It would be greatly appreciated if you would look into the ~~matter~~ ^{case of these vessels} and, if our information is confirmed, take the necessary steps with regard to removing their Panamanian registry.

Yours sincerely
(Sgd) John Beith. *[Signature]*
(J. G. S. Beith) *[Signature]*

Panamanian Chargé d'Affaires
J.G.S.
(From Mr. Beith)

See M.I.5 letter of Mar. 7 in E/949
Co. agree
D. G. B.
NA Dept. list
H. S. Beith
Mar. 8

Copies to
Colonial Office,
Mr. Higham.
Admiralty,
Mr. Dodds.
M.I.5,
Major Chadwick,
with copy of letter under reply.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61939

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

OUT FILE March, 1947.

No. E 2010/84/31

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Chargé d'Affaires,

Thank you for your letter of 4th March, in which you were good enough to confirm to me that you had on that day cancelled the Panamanian registry of five vessels involved in the Jewish illegal immigrant traffic.

This department greatly appreciate your helpful cooperation in the matter and, in view of your expressed intention to prevent the Panamanian flag from being misused by the organisers of this illegal traffic, I venture to draw your attention to a further five vessels, details of which are as follows:-

Ship	Location	Approximate Capacity
Snapdragon	Haarlem	1,000
Shoreham	Cardiff	1,000
Lowestoft	Cardiff	1,000
Anal (ex Earl of Zetland)	Gibraltar	500
Laconia	Gibraltar	1,000

Senor Don Eusebio A. Morales,
Panamanian Legation,
123, Warnford Court,
Throgmorton Street,
E.C.2.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61839

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48



E

E 2082
11 MAR

31

1947

PAPERINE

Registry Number

E2082/34/31

FROM

E.V.

No.

Dated

10/11/47

Received in Registry

11.11.47

Legal Immigration Dept. "ABRIK"
Police list of 489 of Mar 5, states
"ABRIK" will reach Palestine in a day or two
and is sponsored by BRITISH group, which
will probably mean that passengers are
military deserters. Successful disposal of
same

Last Paper.

2080

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

In. P.P. B.O. of 468 of 7/3.
--- Police - 509 of 4/3.

There is little hope that the Admty.
or the Cabinet will accept the
High Commissioner's suggestion.
Quite apart from the legal
objections which we and other
depts. might raise. As a
matter of fact the "Abril" has
now been intercepted without
great fuss.

Co. Tel. No. 468 was
agreed by Mr Evans & myself

Mr Evans first
Mr Bealey H.B. 11/3
32003 F.O.P.

H.S. Bevis
Mar. 11

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Index.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

E2122

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		1		2	

Reference: **FO 371** / 61839

1 dasesan not
Mr Beeley to see ^{29/3} 13 mar 27

In p.p. Palestine tel. 692 of 29/3

223. 9/4

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61839

INWARD TELEGRAM

35
34

Cypher(O.T.P.)

~~893 84 77~~

enter
ind

INDEXED

FROM PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 5th March, 1947.

R. 5th " " 21.55 hrs

E 2082
11 MAR
426/187

IMMEDIATE

No.489 Top Secret.

Addressed S. of S.
Repeated Paris (S. of S. please pass as my No.281).
" Cyprus No.25 and
C.-in-C. (Governor of Malta please pass as
my No. 282).

Illegal immigrant ship named ABRIL (vide correspondence ending with your telegram No.77) is now expected here within the next day or two. As you are aware, this ship is sponsored by the Bergson group and her passengers, of whom 600 are reported to have been embarked at Marseilles on 1st March, may therefore be presumed to be militant revisionists and to represent potential reinforcements for Irgun Zvai Leumi.

2. It is clearly out of the question to admit a shipload of this kind to Palestine, whilst it would be almost equally undesirable to send them to Cyprus, where they would infect the other detained immigrants with their extremism. The Jewish Agency have been asked for their views as to disposal of these people and have reserved their reply. Undoubtedly they (and the bulk of local Jewish opinion) would at heart welcome their diversion from Palestine to Cyprus, but it is unlikely that they will have the frankness to say so officially or that they will be helpful on practical aspects.

3. Clearly the most drastic action is required to meet the situation presented by this new development in illegal immigration. In the circumstances, if it is confirmed on their arrival that the ABRIL passengers are revisionists and that they were embarked at a French port, the only alternative would appear to be to ship them back whence they came. think/

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61939

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think you would wish to know in advance that I am considering this course of action and I suggest that the French Government should be informed now of this possibility.

(Copies sent to Foreign Office for transmission to Paris).

Distributed to:-

MS.25
 Secretary of State
 Sir T. Lloyd
 Mr. I. Thomas
 Mr. Martin
 Sir D. Harris
 Mr. Trafford Smith
 Mr. Mathieson
 Mr. Higham
 Mr. Poynton
 Mr. Bennett
 Mr. Bigg
 Mr. Carstairs
 Mr. Barton
 Mr. Roberts-Wray
 No.10 Downing Street
 Lord President
 Admiralty
 "
 "
 War Office
 " "
 " " (M.O.4.)
 " " (M.I.3.)
 Air Ministry
 " "
 Cabinet Offices
 " "
 " "
 Foreign Office
 " "
 " "
 Ministry of Defence
 " " "
 " " "
 M.I.5.
 Dominions Office
 Ministry of Transport
 Foreign Office Research Dept.

- P.S. to Prime Minister.
 - Private Secretary.
 - Private Secretary.
 - First Sea Lord.
 - Mr. G.C.R. Dodds.
 - Private Secretary.
 - C.I.G.S.
 - Lt. Col. J.G. Atkinson.
 - Lt. Col. Gore.
 - Private Secretary.
 - Chief of Air Staff.
 - Sir N. Brook.
 - Mr. S.E.V. Lake.
 - Mr. E.A. Armstrong.
 - Private Secretary.
 - Mr. C.W. Baxter.
 - Mr. Beith.
 - Private Secretary.
 - Sir H. Wilson Smith.
 - Defence Registry.
 - Mr. J.C. Robertson.
 - Private Secretary.
 - Air Commodore K.C. Buss.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61839

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Identify potentially dangerous passengers, you will, I presume, consider their removal and detention in Palestine and their exclusion from the system of releases under the quota.

(Copies sent to War Registry, Admiralty and Cypher Room, Foreign Office for transmission to G.-in-C. Mediterranean and H.M. Ambassador Paris).

Distributed to:-

MS.25	Mr. Higham
Secretary of State	Mr. Poynton
Sir T. Lloyd	Mr. Pannett
Mr. I. Thomas	Mr. Bigg
Mr. Martin	Mr. Garstairs
Sir D. Harris	Mr. Barton
Mr. Trafford Smith	Mr. Roberts-Wray
Mr. Mathieson	
No.10 Downing Street	- P.S. to Prime Minister.
Lord President	- Private Secretary.
Admiralty	- Private Secretary.
"	- First Sea Lord.
"	- Mr. G.C.B. Dodds.
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"	- C.I.G.S.
" " (M.O.4.)	- Lt. Col. J.G. Atkinson.
" " (M.I.3.)	- Lt. Col. Gore,
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"	- Chief of Air Staff.
Cabinet Offices	- Sir N. Brook.
"	- Mr. S.E.V. Luke.
"	- Mr. E.A. Armstrong.
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"	- Mr. Beith.
Ministry of Defence	- Private Secretary.
"	- Sir H. Wilson Smith.
"	- Defence Registry.
M.I.5.	- Mr. J.C. Robertson.
Dominions Office	- Private Secretary.
Ministry of Transport	- Private Secretary.
Foreign Office Research	
Department	- Air Commodore K.C. Buss.

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Secretary of State	Mr. Poynton
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Mr. Trafford Smith	Mr. Roberts-Way
Mr. Mathieson	
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 " " (M.I.3)
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 " "
 Cabinet Offices
 " "
 Foreign Office
 " "
 " "
 Ministry of Defence
 " " "
 " " "
 M.I.5
 Dominions Office
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 Foreign Office Research
 Department

- P.S. to Prime Minister.
- Private Secretary.
- Private Secretary.
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- Private Secretary.
- C.I.G.S.
- Lt. Col. J.G. Atkinson.
- Lt. Col. W. Gore.
- Private Secretary.
- Chief of Air Staff.
- Sir N. Brook.
- Mr. E.A. Armstrong.
- Private Secretary.
- Mr. C.W. Baxter.
- Mr. Beith.
- Private Secretary.
- Sir Henry Wilson Smith.
- Defence Registry.
- Mr. J.C. Robertson.
- Private Secretary.
- Private Secretary.
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 - " (M.I. 3.)
 - Air Ministry
 - "
 - Cabinet Offices
 - "
 - Foreign Office
 - "
 - "
 - Ministry of Defence
 - " " "
 - " " "
 - M.I. 5.
 - Dominions Office
 - Ministry of Transport
 - Foreign Office (Research Dept.)
- P.S. to Prime Minister.
 - Private Secretary.
 - Private Secretary.
 - First Sea Lord.
 - Mr. G. C. B. Dodds.
 - C.I.G.S.
 - Private Secretary.
 - Lt. Col. J. G. Atkinson.
 - Lt. Col. W. Gore.
 - Chief of Air Staff.
 - Private Secretary.
 - Sir N. Brook.
 - Mr. E. A. Armstrong.
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 - Mr. C. W. Baxter.
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Reference:

FO 371 / 51939

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INWARD TELEGRAM

31 46

Keep with pp

MM/24/3

Cypher (O.T.P.)

2082 / 84 / 71

FROM PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 22nd March, 1947.

R. 22nd " " 12.15 hrs.

INDEXED

IMPORTANT

No.623 Top Secret.

My telegram No.622.

AERIL.

Reason for my decision is that it cannot be shown that the ship was boarded within territorial waters.

Distributed to:-

MS.25	Mr. Trafford Smith
Secretary of State	Mr. Mathieson
Sir T. Lloyd	Mr. Higham
Mr. I. Thomas	Mr. Eastwood
Mr. Martin	Mr. Bennett
Sir D. Harris	Mr. Bigg
No.10 Downing Street	P.S. to Prime Minister.
Lord President	Private Secretary.
Admiralty	Private Secretary.
"	First Sea Lord.
"	Mr. G.C.B. Dodds.
War Office	Private Secretary.
"	C.I.G.S.
"	Lt. Col. J.G. Atkinson.
"	Lt. Col. Gore.
Air Ministry (M.O.4.)	Private Secretary.
" (M.I.3.)	Chief of Air Staff.
Cabinet Offices	Sir N. Book.
"	Mr. S.E.V. Luke.
"	Mr. E.A. Armstrong.
Foreign Office	Private Secretary.
"	Mr. C.W. Baxter.
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"	Sir H. Wilson Smith.
"	Defence Registry.
M.I.5.	Mr. J.C. Robertson.
Dominions Office	Private Secretary.
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FO 371 / 61939

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893

2082

2790

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3 APR 1947

INWARD TELEGRAM

CB

47E

Cypher (O.T.P.)

INDEXED

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S. COLONIES.

D. 29th March, 1947.

R. 29th " " 20.10 hrs.

No. 692

Your telegram No. 77.

Illegal immigrant ship ABRII.

I shall be glad to know whether Honduras registration of this vessel was, in fact, withdrawn.

Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office - Communications Divn.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61839

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49

E

E 2122

48

1947

PALESTINE

12 MAR

Registry Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

E 2122/84/31

Legation
Panama.

22.

24, Feb 1947
17. Mar 1947

Illegal Immigrant Ships.

Transmits Extract from local newspaper "Panama American" February 21. Discusses sale of 5 ships "SAN BASILIO" "SAN MIGUEL" "SAN SPIRIDON" "SAN FILIPO" and "SAN DEMITRIO" by Swedish Boy SUEA to unnamed Panama shipping boy on behalf of Jewish Refugee organization. Bought by boat by Swedish Fallos Association block listing "SAN 8 15 21 0".

Last Paper.

2082

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

13. Mar. 12

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

PEW 2/3

[Signature] 3/8/47

Next Paper.

2199

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61839**

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No. 22

HIS Majesty's Minister at Panama
presents his compliments to H.M. Principal Secretary of
State for Foreign Affairs,
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned
documents.

British...Legation,.....

.....Panama.....

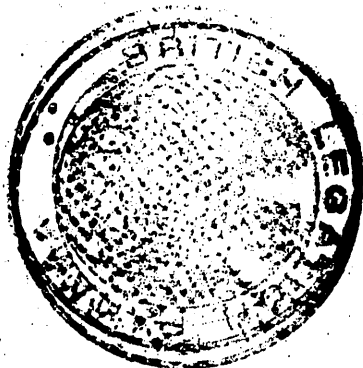
E 2122
12 MAR

February..24th, 1947...

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Clipping from local newspaper, "Panama American" February 21st, 1947.	Jewish Refugees.



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Reference: FO 371 / 61839

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E

E 2199

51

1947

PALESTINE

13 MAR

Registry Number

E 2199/84/31

FROM

E.O.

No.

Command.

Dated

Received in Registry

13 Mar 1947

Illegal Immigrant Ships
Transmits copy of letter from Higham E.O. to Dodds, Admty. M 76021/46A/47 of Mar 12. Discussing vessels suspected of being potential carriers of illegal immigrants. States these are at Cardiff. Are "SHOREHAM" and "LOWETTOFT" both of Panamanian registry, which third is in Gibraltar. Suggests measures for preventing their departure.

Last Paper.

2/22.

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Mrs. Chauncy
Paris

✓ Mar 19

M. Beith's Comps.

Mr. P.O. Higham

✓ Mar 20

(Action completed.)

PEW 21/3

(Index.)

3/19

Next Paper.

E 2203

(Minutes.)

Draft to Paris

13 Mar. 18

In P.P. Admty M/N10 0281/47. Command.
Dodds to Higham. 14/3

Copy our letter to Paris
to Mr Higham, Co., with
my comps. 13 Mar 19

In P.P. Copy of letter from Gen Storey to
Mr Higham. 18/3.
13 Mar. 20

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Reference: FO 371 / 61839

RECEIVED
 15 JAN 1947
 SENT TO DEP
 15 JAN 1947

53

by the standards of the ships that arrive in Palestine. Perhaps a look-out could be kept to see that every obstruction is placed in the way of these vessels and that every form of administrative delay is employed.

It might be useful if Beith could enquire what are the regulations about giving and withholding clearance in French and other foreign ports. I am looking into the Gibraltar situation.

Copies of this letter are being sent to Beith, Keenlyside, Chadwick and Tiger (Customs).

Yours sincerely,

J. D. Higham.

P.S. I should be grateful for a very urgent reply as my Secretary of State is most anxious to have an estimate of the numbers of immigrants likely to reach Palestine in the next few months and much depends on the answers to this letter.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 51939

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INDEXED

pw

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With the compliments

of Mr. G.C.B. Dodds.

J.G.S. Beith, Esq.,
Foreign Office.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61939

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WHI. 9000
Ext. 86

55

ADMIRALTY, S.W.1.

M/NID.0281/47
SECRET.

14th March, 1947.

My dear John,

Thank you for your letter 76021/46A/47 of the 12th March about the SHOREHAM and LOWESTOFT.

2. I need hardly tell you that these two ships have been exercising our minds very considerably as we are responsible for their having fallen into undesirable hands.
3. You will be glad to hear that both ships are in need of repair and that instructions have been given for repair licences to be refused. The LOWESTOFT could not in her present condition even be towed away. The SHOREHAM could be towed away but could not move under her own power. We shall keep our eyes open for an opportunity of preventing her departure by means of technical and administrative obstruction.
4. I am sending copies of this letter to the recipients of yours. I expect that Dalmahey who has relieved Keenlyside will be able to answer the other points in your letter.

Yours ever,
G.C.B. DODDS

J.D. Higham, Esq.,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61839**

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For the information of J. Beith Esq.,

FSN/FW/378

2199/84/31

INDEXED

put into 56

1st March, 1947.

Dear Higham,

E 2199/84/31

Potential Carriers of illegal immigrants to Palestine

I refer to your letter dated 12th March, 1947 Ref 76021/46A addressed to Dodds, Admiralty, a copy of which was sent to Keenlyside who has now left the Ministry.

We have sought the opinion of the Treasury solicitor on the points raised in your letter and he has advised as follows:-

"Arrest of a ship can only be effected by the issue of a writ, preliminary to Court proceedings. There are, however, in certain cases a right under the M.S. Acts to detain a foreign ship.

I would point out that an officer of Customs is under a statutory duty to refuse clearance or transit to any ship until the Master of the ship has declared to that officer the name of the nation to which he claims that ship belongs. If a ship attempts to proceed to sea without such clearance she may be detained.

All that is required of the Master is a declaration so that the mere fact that her registration has been cancelled, although it might cause a slight delay, could easily be got over by the Master making a declaration to the Customs officer.

J. D. Higham, Esq.,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.

/if

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61839

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If the papers were otherwise in order the ship would be entitled to clearance. A foreign ship can under Section 462 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1894 be detained if "unsafe by reason of defective condition of her hull equipments, or machinery, or by reason of overloading or improper loading or by reason of undermanning". This is somewhat limited as you will see. If the ship is going to sail in ballast and holds a convention certificate of safety issued by the Panamanian Government I can foresee difficulty in detaining her on life saving appliances unless the supply of such is clearly below that specified in the certificate etc, all that could be done would be to get her surveyed with a view to stating, in the case of a passenger ship, how many passengers she is fit to carry (Section 17 (1) (G) of M.S. (Safety and Load Line Conventions) Act, 1932). I have no doubt one can be obstructive and put difficulties in the way of the ship sailing, but must be chary of detaining a ship unless we are entitled so to do".

A copy of this letter has been sent to the recipients of your letter.

Yours sincerely

Signature R. C. Money

MAJOR GENERAL R. C. MONEY

Signature

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Reference: FO 371 / 61839

Registry
No. E 2199/84/31

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

J. G. S. B.

Draft.

The Chancery,
Paris.

OUT FILE

+ O C l q March, 1947.

Dear Chancery,

In connexion with the recent Jewish illegal immigration movement through France, the Colonial Office have asked us whether we can find out what are the regulations governing the grant or withholding of clearance in French ports.

We should be grateful if you would let us have a brief report on the position, with particular reference to our present problem. We do not of course require copies of the relevant French regulations but merely a brief statement of French practice in this matter.

Yours ever,

Eastern Department.

Wmar 18

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 51839

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OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

19th March, 1947.

(E 2199/84/31)

Dear Chancery,

In connexion with the recent Jewish illegal immigration movement through France, the Colonial Office have asked us whether we can find out what are the regulations governing the grant or withholding of clearance in French ports.

We should be grateful if you would let us have a brief report on the position, with particular reference to our present problem. We do not of course require copies of the relevant French regulations but merely a brief statement of French practice in this matter.

Yours ever,

Eastern Department.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Paris.

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59

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Reference:

FO 371 / 51939

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1947

E

E 2203
MAR 60

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 2203/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

Lord Laversham
Washington

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

1513.

11 Mar 1947

13 - -

Illegal Immigrant Rpts. 'President Warfield'

New York Times reported March 7. presence for repairs in Norfolk Virginia of 'President Warfield', stated in William S. SCHLEGEL. the carrier only 35 tons of mess kit and life jackets. Some of crew admit that her destination was Palestine and mentioned 'ARRIL'.

Last Paper.

2199

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ Robertson P.O.
Robertson M-15
Widd. Admty
E. Smith

✓ Mar 18.

(Action completed.)

G. C. 2/13

(Index.)

3/18/48

Next Paper.

E 2225

(Minutes.)

Copn Co. }
Admty. } usual names
MIS }
✓

+ remount

13 Mar 14

In P.P. Palestine tel ~~519~~ 519. 10/3

Para. 3

This is in line with action we have taken with the Panamanian 'Amarracion Churced' Affairs here

N.A. Dept. B. 25/3.

13 Mar 17

In pp. C.O. tel. 495 of 12/3.

13 Mar 26

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E 2203

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Lord Inverchapel,
No. 1513.
11th March, 1947.

D: 4.45 a.m. 12th March, 1947

R: 10.25 a.m. 12th March, 1947

Repeated to Jerusalem,
Panama.

A A A A

SECRET.

not yet received
Jerusalem telegram No. 519. to Colonial Office.

Illegal immigrants into Palestine.

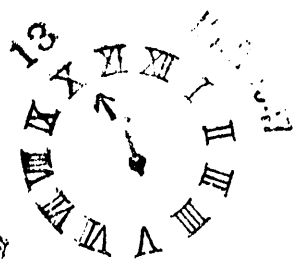
New York Times reported on March 7th the presence for repairs in Norfolk Virginia of "President Warfield". She had been Chesapeake Bay Liner and later a naval auxiliary in the war. Her tonnage is not mentioned but her present crew numbers 40, of whom four fifths are said to be Jews. Master is William S. Schlegel. She carries only 35 tons of mess kits and life jackets. Some of the crew admit that her destination was Palestine and indicated that she was to follow "Abril" (see my telegram No 7,378 of 1946).

2. According to report she was offered for sale by United States Marine Commission a year ago and bought by Potomac Shipwrecking Company of Washington in November 1946, by whom she was sold to an unnamed New Yorker. Alleged owners, West Trading Company of New York, and agents, Alcoa Steamship Company of New York, are both reported to have denied knowledge of her but an anonymous Jewish source in New York is alleged to have stated that she is owned by Hagark. It also appears from report that she has passed to Panamanian flag.

3. I have already written to [grp omitted] Ambassador requesting that Panamanian Government should withdraw Panamanian registry from the ship if the facts are confirmed, and have asked Consul at Norfolk and Consul General at New York to investigate. Attention of the State Department has also been drawn to report, which they had not seen. They promised to make enquiries but on legal aspect referred to reply about Abril contained in my telegram No. 7,378 of last year.

3. [sic] We have at present no knowledge of any further ships.

7. Weston



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Reference: FO 371 / 61939

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

64

76021/46A/47

Cypher (C.T.P.)

2203 84 71

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

FROM S. OF S., COLONIES.

Sent 12th March, 1947. 16.30 hrs.

Secret
No. 495

Addressed to High Commissioner for Palestine.
Repeated " H.M. Ambassador Washington.

Your secret telegram No. 519 repeated Washington.
No. 46.

Illegal immigration.

Nothing known here beyond press reports which
also state "President Vaxfield" put back with engine trouble.

Request H.M. Ambassador Washington will report all
known facts.

/Copies

(Copies sent to Foreign Office for transmission to
Washington)

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		1		2	

Reference:

FO 371 / 61939

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1947

E 294

66

E 2225

29/11/32
14 MAR

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E2225/84/31

FROM

Chancery

No.

Washington

Dated

4421/3/47

Received in Registry

6 Mar 1947

14 - -

Canadian Boats

Refer W 204 til 626/ of Oct 26 JE10636/10637
re ships sold on behalf of Canadian Govt
and which have been used or resale for illegal
immigrants. These ships have eventually obtained
Panamanian registry and the 'CNOID' was
bought likely to be used for this purpose.
Encloses correspondence with Panamanian Ambassador
re 'CNOID'

Last Paper.

2203

(Minutes.)

References.

Copy M15 }
Co. } usual names
for obs.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

1st Matheson P.O.
Robertson M15
Mar 18

Bu. Apr 1st
N.A. Dept.

13 Mar - 17

It appears that the radio belongs
to a different company from the other two
ships, which are owned by the Caribbean
Shipping Atlantic Corporation of Panama

(E 2789)

(Action completed.)

J. E. 18/4

(Index)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

2226

Southern Dept. We should like to
see any reply Athens may send.

H. Bealey 2/4

32003 F.O.P

See draft to M15
on E2991/84/31
J.B. Apr. 14 D. J. M. Bealey
10/4

1	2	3	4	5	6
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67

Encl. P. Postcard tel 460 10/4

777 13/4

13 Apr. 17

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61939

E 68

E 2225
14

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

6th March 1947

Ref: 4421/3/47

E 10036 / 7656 / P1

Dear Department,

Would you please refer to correspondence beginning with our letter 2587/1/46 of 12th October last and ending with our telegram to the Foreign Office No. 6261 of 26th October regarding certain ships sold on behalf of the Canadian Government, some of which had been used on resale for the transport of illegal Jewish immigrants.

These ships had eventually obtained Panamanian registry and one of them, the "OWEN SOUND", which was subsequently renamed the "CADIO", was thought likely to be used for this purpose, since the two others, the "NORSYD" and the "BEAUHARNOIS" had been intercepted while carrying illegal Jewish immigrants, and the "CADIO" herself was known to have been in Naples on 29th July last.

We now enclose copies of a letter which we have received from the Panamanian Ambassador in Washington, together with a translation of the enclosure, and of our reply. The enclosure to the Panamanian Ambassador's letter deals with the "CADIO" and suggests that that particular ship may in fact have been used for the dispatch of contraband arms to Greece. We should be interested to know if you have any further information about her possible connection with illegal immigration into Palestine, which we could pass on privately to the Panamanian Government in order - if necessary - to urge withdrawal of the Panamanian registry from the vessel.

We are sending copies of this letter to Panama, Rome, Athens and Jerusalem.

Yours ever,

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

CHANCERY
S.A.

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COPY

69

PANAMANIAN EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

January 23, 1947

Excellency:

His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama has asked me to send to Your Excellency a copy of the letter addressed to our Consul General in New York, by the Director of the Consular Section, Ministry of the Treasury, with regard to several complaints made by the Charge d'Affairs of Panama in Rome, Italy, against the S.S. "CADIO", of the Cadio Compania de Navegacion, S.A.

I am complying now with the request of our Chancery, for the kind attention of Your Excellency.

I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration,

J.J. VALLARINO

The Right Honorable the Lord Inverchapel
Ambassador of Great Britain
Washington, D.C.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61839

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INWARD TELEGRAM

enter 71

222-74/71

16 APR 1947

INDEXED

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 10th April, 1947.

R. 10th " " 16.05 hrs.

No. 760 Secret

Addressed to the S. of S.
Repeated to Washington No. 76.
" " Athens (S. of S. please pass as my
telegram No. (corrupt group^m). Begins.

American Consul General here, as charged with protection of Panamanian interests, has made representations regarding alleged complaint by British Embassy Washington (presumably to Panamanian Minister) that vessel CADIO flying Panamanian flag flying between Piræus and (corrupt group ? Haifa^m) engaged in traffic in illegal Jewish immigration.

2. I have no information supporting the view that CADIO is engaged in this traffic.

3. Grateful for information as to action taken by H.M.'s Embassy Washington, with indication of the grounds for complaint if made. Also for guidance as to terms of reply to be sent to the American Consul General.

^mCorrection being obtained.

(Copies to Cypher Room Foreign Office
for repetition to Athens)

/Copies

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

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Copies sent to:-

No. 10 Downing Street	- P.S. to Prime Minister.
Lord President	- Private Secretary.
Admiralty	- Private Secretary.
"	- First Sea Lord.
"	- Mr. G.C.B. Dods.
War Office	- Private Secretary.
"	- C.I.C.S.
" " (M.O.L.)	- Lt. Col. J.D. Atkinson.
" " (M.I.3.)	- Lt. Col. W. Gore.
Air Ministry	- Private Secretary.
"	- Chief of Air Staff.
Cabinet Offices	- Sir H. Brock.
"	- Mr. T.A.G. Charlton.
Foreign Office	- Private Secretary.
"	- Mr. C.W. Baxter.
"	- Mr. Baith.
Ministry of Defence	- Private Secretary.
" " "	- Sir Henry Wilson Smith.
" " "	- Defence Registry.
Dominions Office	- Private Secretary.
Ministry of Transport	- Private Secretary.
Foreign Office (Research	- Air Commodore R.G. Buss.
Department)	
M.I.5.	- Mr. J.C. Robertson.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 51939

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1947

E

E 2226
14 MAR

75

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E2226/84/31.
FROM Legation
No. Moscow.
Dated 24
Received in Registry } 60/11-20/47
15 Feb 1947
14 Mar 1947

Illegal Immigration, Baban Uzal.
Refer 7.0 tel to Moscow N 30. (E1275/48/9)
of Feb 14. Enclosed note N 50 to Cuban State
Dept of Feb 15. Re the use of Baban Uzal
to facilitate Jewish illegal immigration
into Palestine.

Last Paper.

2225

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

~~S. BO. (Machuga)~~
~~MLI. (Robertson)~~
✓ Mar 18

(Action completed.)

JSM 20/2

(Index)

3/8/48

Next Paper.

2230

(Minutes.)

Copy CO
mis. } usual names

NA Dept.
25/3.

13 Mar 17

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Reference: FO 371 / 61839

24 (60/K-20/47)

76 E.

HIS Majesty's Minister at Havana
presents his compliments to Prin. S. of S. for F.A. London S.W. 1
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British Legation.....

.....Havana.....

.....Cuba,..... 14 MAR

15th February 1947...

Reference to previous correspondence:

Foreign Office telegram No. 10 of 14th February 1947.

Description of Enclosure. 1275/48/9

Name and Date.	Subject.
Note No. 50 to Cuban State Department, of 15th February 1947.	Cuban visas being used to facilitate Jewish illegal immigration traffic.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 64839

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54

E

78

E 2230

1947

PALISTINE

14 MAR

Registry Number

E 2230/84/31

FROM

J. M. Wootton

No.

Colonial Office

Dated

16/21/46

Received in Registry

E M. T. Down

12. Mar 1947

14

Illegal Immigrant Ship. 'UNUA'
 Refers to letter (E 1587/84/31) of Mar 6 asking that master and crew of 'UNUA' should be prosecuted in Palestine courts. Refers to letter (E 439) from which will be seen that this is in fact the I/C's intention if crew identified. Press reports about crew are to appear before district court shortly. Will keep informed.

Last Paper.

2226

(Minutes.)

Mr Bealey H.B. 21/3

Mr S. Beunt
Mar 21

References.

Saw by Mr. Savoy.

Mr Pelford sees. 29/1/47

(Print.)

+ B. V. App. 2nd
Apr. 8

RJ
24/3

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

J. E. M. 1/4

(Index.)

1/4

Next Paper

2232

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 Reference: **FO 371** / 61839

INWARD TELEGRAM

79

COPY.

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 28th February, 1947.

R. 28th " " 13.30 hrs.

IMPORTANT

No.439 Secret.

Illegal Immigration.

There are persistent reports that ships arriving in the near future (e.g. ULUA) will carry American crews, the objective being to embroil us with the U.S. over any untoward incidents or prosecutions which may result. If these are on board when ships are apprehended and can be identified, they will be prosecuted for abetting illegal immigration. You may wish to consider whether it would be desirable to give the U.S. authorities advance notification of this intention.

Copies sent to:-

No.10 Downing Street	- P.S. to Prime Minister.
Lord President	- Private Secretary.
Admiralty	- Private Secretary.
"	- First Sea Lord.
"	- Mr. G.C.B. Dodds.
War Office	- Private Secretary.
"	- C.I.G.S.
" " (M.O.4.)	- Lt.Col. J.G. Atkinson.
" " (M.I.3.)	- Lt. Col. W. Gore.
Air Ministry	- Chief of Air Staff.
"	- Private Secretary.
Cabinet Offices	- Sir N. Brook.
"	- Mr. E.A. Armstrong.
Foreign Office	- Private Secretary.
"	- Mr. C.W. Baxter.
"	- Mr. Beith.
Ministry of Defence	- Private Secretary.
"	- Sir H. Wilson Smith.
"	- Defence Registry.
M.I.5.	- Mr. J.C. Robertson.
Ministry of Transport	- Private Secretary.
Foreign Office Research Dept.	- Air Commodore K.C. Buss.
Dominions Office	- Private Secretary.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61839

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76021/46A/47.

E 2230

14 March, 1947.

My dear Howe,

Thank you for your letter E.1587/84/31 of the 6th March asking that the master and crew of the "Ulua" should be prosecuted in the Palestine Courts.

You will probably now have seen Palestine telegram No. 439, of which I enclose a copy for ease of reference, from which you will see that this is in fact the High Commissioner's intention if the crew can be identified; while according to Press reports the American crew of the "Abril" are to appear before a district court in the next few days. I gather that when Higham and Beith discussed this telegram the Foreign Office view was that it was unnecessary to give the United States authorities advance notification of the intention to take action against any American members of the crew, since United States nationals must expect to pay the normal penalties for any infringements of the laws of Palestine.

I can assure you that it is with very great regret that the Palestine Government have had to abandon proceedings against the crews of earlier arrivals. Since Palestine cannot legislate with extra-territorial effect, prosecutions can be successfully pursued only if it can be proved to the Court that the offence of abetting illegal immigration has been committed inside territorial waters. Those on board illegal immigrant ships are well aware of this and take due precautions to ensure that no evidence can be found against the crews. In some cases the crews have been battened down under hatches to give the appearance of their having been overpowered by the passengers. It looks as if the "Abril" crew have either not been very clever, or else are deliberately seeking martyrdom, in order that the American League may use their arrest to try to raise a storm in the United States over detention by the British

/of.....

SIR ROBERT HOWE, K.C.M.G.

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Reference:

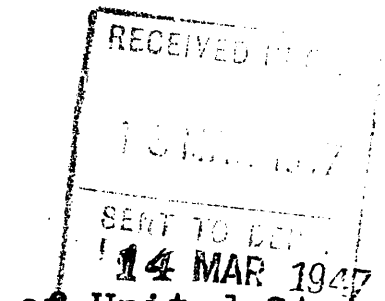
FO

371

61839

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81



of United States nationals engaged in the humanitarian task of taking Jewish refugees "home".

A further difficulty is that in many cases recently the crews have been taken off by smaller vessels before the ships started on the last stage of their voyage to Palestine. In other cases the crews have been Jews who have mingled with the main body of immigrants.

We will certainly keep you informed of any developments in regard to the crew of the "Ulua" and that of the "Abril", and we shall ask the High Commissioner to repeat any telegrams or despatches on this subject to Washington.

You may have heard from Garran that the question of action on other lines has not been neglected.

*Yr sincerely,
J. M. Martin*

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Back in the United States reserve fleet, the Warfield was broken out and offered for sale by the Maritime Commission a year ago. On Nov. 11 1946 she was sold on an unrestricted basis to the Potomac Shipwrecking Company, Washington. She brought \$8,028, and two days later, according to unconfirmed report, the company was offered \$40,000 for her. The Potomac concern refused to give the name of the purchaser, saying only that it was "a man in New York".

In Norfolk, where the battered craft awaited repairs yesterday, crew men said that the Alcoa Steamship Company was her agent, and referred inquiries there. They also said the owner was the Weston Trading Company of 24 Stone St. New York.

At the headquarters of Alcoa at 17 Battery Place, a spokesman for the line said it never heard of the President Warfield, and that it certainly had nothing to do with her. No Weston Trading Company is listed in the telephone book.

In the old-fashioned office building on Stone Street, however, on the fifth floor, in a cubicle room crowded by a desk, several chairs and five men almost elbow to elbow, was the office. The door had the legend "Marine Surveyor" and, below it, "Weston Trading Company".

At the desk one man was counting money in a steel security box. Another was whispering at the coin-box telephone on the wall as messages came in.

A third told a reporter yes the company bought the President Warfield but any inquiries would have to go to Capt. E. Weiss at Alcoa's Norfolk office. That completed the circle.

An authoritative Palestine source in New York, requesting anonymity, provided another clue. "She is owned by Haganah, the Palestine underground organization," he said. He provided an unlisted telephone number and a name.

The man answering there said "Warfield? Warfield? How do you spell it?"

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61939

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59

1947

E

E 2380
19 MAR

88

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E2380/84/31.

FROM

F.O. Minute.

No.

M Gault.

Dated

Received in Registry

14. Mar 1947
19 - -

Illegal Immigrant Ship.
Steamer "MIRKONIK" of Wm Coy Ltd has been asked by the Estonian Trading Coy to supply 1000 tons of fuel oil, vegetables and water to steamer "Trade Wind" at Ponta Delgada on Mar 20. Suspicion was aroused by previous request, when certain ship was used for Illegal Immigration, asked for F.O. Guidance.

Last Paper.

2357

(Minutes.)

13. Mar 27

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/1. Michels
M. 1.5.
Mar. 26/47

(Action completed.)

G. E. ...

(Index.)

...

Next Paper.

2428

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Copy Mrs (N/G cherr)

E 2380
19

C A-B please ^{Minutes.}

F enter 20
89

copy
Mr. MELLONIE, Messrs Linn
Corn Ltd. (Rental 2500 ext 145)
rang up to say that his firm had
been asked by Mr WESTON
TRADING Co New York. to supply
1000 tons fuel oil, vegetables & water
to the steamer TRADE WIND at
Ponta Delgada, Azores. on Nov
20.

Mr. Mellonie said his suspicions
had been aroused because last
Year Socony Vacuum ~~as~~ asked
Comps in New York to arrange
supplies and act as agents in
the Azores for the ULUA which
subsequently turned up as an
illegal Danish immigrant ship.

~~So~~ Socony Messrs was arranged
the Azores on this
fuel at Azores? on his occasion.
Socony asked ⁱⁿ full this was to be

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done for the account of the
Western Trading Co. which is
 a recently formed company
 dealing in ship owning
 and managed by a Captain
 Asch who stated that he
 had recently sold the ^{ULWA} ~~Ulwa~~
 for delivery in the E. Medi-
 terranean.

Mr Mellorci wants to
 know whether he should
 accept his request for
 bunkers for the Trade
Union. He must know
 urgently as there are only
 6 days left till March 20.
 The Trade Union is not in
 Lloyd's register.

Chaulk

14/3 / B

Spoken to Wm. Corys, after consulting
 M.S. They are declining invitation
 to accept ~~offer~~ ^{agency} or supply bunkers
 J.B. mar 17

RECEIVED IN C.B.
 16 MAR 1917
 SENT TO DEP.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61839

66 NEXT 47

E

E 2592 93

1947

25 MAR

Registry Number } E 2592/84/31
TELEGRAM FROM

No. M Reake
Dated Belgrade
Received in Registry } 367
21. Mar 1947
25 - -

Illegal Immigration.
Refer FO (L) 613 (E 2248/48/9) states there has been no traffic of Jewish Immigrants across Yugoslavia since matter was taken up. General attitude of members of Yugoslav Govt is such that whatever may have happened in the past, it appears that they are no longer permitting illegal immigrants across their country.

Last Paper.

2548

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ Matheron P.O.
Robertson M15
Dodd's admty
Smith
Mar 25
Tel) Belgrade 771
April
P.T.O.

(Action completed.)

7/2/4

(Index)

9/8/48

Next Paper.

E 2596

(Minutes.)

Copies sent to CO, M15, Adm.

It is true that there has been little illegal immigration via Yugoslavia lately. I therefore agree that it will be sufficient for Am. Ambassador to keep a close watch.

Sent to ^{SpD. 2/4.} Southern Dept. J.S. Beins
Mar. 27

Please act accordingly.

R. Curran
27/3

Wm
31/3

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No. E2592/84/31

Draft

Belgrade
771
Tel. April 1
Dunning

depl. no. 2
Cypher
ambass
Enclain

Copies Adm. / usual
to
Mrs James

JB Mar 28

[Signature]
3/28

OUT FILE

Date 11/4/47 95
Despatched 2.16 PM

Your tel. no 367 [of Mar. 21:
Jewish illegal immigration]
para. 2.

I agree

Wm 3/1/3

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Reference:

FO 371 / 51839

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96
OUT FILE

E2592/84/31

En Clair

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO BELGRADE.

No. 771

1st April 1947.

D. 2.16 p.m. 1st April 1947.

V V V

Your telegram No. 567 [of March 21st: Jewish
illegal immigration], paragraph 2.

I agree.

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference:

FO 371 / 61839

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E 2586

E

98
END

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Lord Inverchapel.
No.1793

D. 7.52 p.m. 24th March, 1947

24th March, 1947.

R. 2.20 a.m. 25th March, 1947

Repeated to Jerusalem
Tegucigalpa (Saving)

My telegram No.1755.

2548/84/31

Illegal immigration into Palestine.

Consul General at Philadelphia discovered that "President Warfield" was in Philadelphia on the morning of March 22nd and was to take oil (not coal). At our request Honduran Ambassador instructed his Acting Consul General New York to go to Philadelphia and take away ship's Honduran registry. On arrival in Philadelphia he reported that the ship had already left. We thereupon enquired of [gp. undec. ?His Majesty's Consul General] if this were true and on learning from him that she had merely changed her berth and was still there, we again approached Honduran Ambassador.

2. Honduran Ambassador has now informed us that he has telegraphed to Chief of the Customs at Philadelphia, apparently to inform him that ship's Honduran registry has been withdrawn and has instructed Acting Honduran Consul General New York to proceed again to Philadelphia to take away the ship's papers. I will telegraph again as soon as result of this action is known.

MAR 28 1947

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